

## Revising for Parallelism II

To revise for parallelism, make sure that the same grammatical form is used for a series of words, phrases, or clauses. In the first example sentence below, the parts of the series following the word *because* are not parallel. The first two parts, *it was clumsy* and *it was too long* are both clauses. The third part, *due to its lack of clarity*, is a phrase. The sentence has been revised in three ways. Which revision do you prefer?

- Not parallel** I rewrote the sentence because it was clumsy, it was too long, and due to its lack of clarity.
- Parallel** I rewrote the sentence because **it was clumsy, it was too long, and it lacked clarity.**
- Parallel** I rewrote the sentence because of **its clumsiness, its length, and its lack of clarity.**
- Parallel** I rewrote the sentence because it was **clumsy, long, and unclear.**

Also check for parallelism in sentences that contain pairs of correlative conjunctions, such as *both . . . and*, *not only . . . but also*, *either . . . or*, *neither . . . nor*, or *whether . . . or*. The sentence structure after the second correlative conjunction should be exactly parallel in form to the structure after the first correlative conjunction.

- Not parallel** Both the ideas in a paper and presenting them are important.
- Parallel** Both **the ideas** in a paper and **their presentation** are important.
- Parallel** Both **the ideas** in a paper and **the presentation of them** are important.

**EXERCISE** Revise each sentence to make its structure parallel. If necessary, you may omit words, rearrange their order, or change their forms. If a sentence is correct, write *correct*.

- Sample** The theater had good acoustics, with modern lighting, and its fire exits were well marked.
- Revision** The theater had good acoustics, modern lighting, and well-marked fire exits.

1. Audiences won't enjoy a play that is boring, long, or that confuses them.

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2. A successful director not only recognizes a good script but also he can bring that script to life.

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3. Actors are, of course, critical to a play's effectiveness and whether it is a success.

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## Revising with Style

### LESSON

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Continued

4. Good actors take care both in speaking their lines well and in their use of even the smallest gestures.

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5. A makeup artist can change an actor's appearance through the application of color and shadows or by using devices such as beards, scars, and wigs.

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6. Understanding emotions and portraying them effectively are critical to actors.

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7. A costume designer researches the time period in which the drama is set, designs costumes for the actors that are true to the period, and then the designer is supervising the manufacture of the clothing.

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8. The designer's work must both reflect and it must be supportive of the action, time period, mood, and theme of the play.

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9. Drama critics should be people who are familiar with many types of plays and having a well-developed artistic taste.

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10. Drama critics must be forming their own opinions about a play but also be mindful of the message that the director, cast, and designers are trying to convey.

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